AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1.   (Currently Amended) In a system having a plurality of receivers and at least one aggregation module, a method for providing real-time streaming media from a wide area network to the plurality of set-top boxesreceivers, the method comprising:

(a)   receiving at at least one aggregation module a request for real-time streaming media accessible via a wide area network from each of a plurality of receivers, each request comprising an identifier representative of the receiver making the request;

(b)   using the at least one aggregation module, removing redundant requests creating-a-single-communication-connection-between-at-least-one-proxy-module-and requesting a single copy of the real-time streaming media from the wide area network from which a single copy-of-the-real-time-streaming-media-is retrievable;

(c)   buffering the single copy of the real-time streaming media at the at least one aggregation module; and

(d)   using the buffered single copy of the real-time streaming media, delivering separate-instances of the streaming media to the plurality of receivers.

2.   (Currently Amended) A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the at least one proxy-moduleaggregation module is remote from at least one of the plurality of receivers.

3.   (Cancelled)

4.   (Currently Amended) A method as recited in claim 31, further comprising delivering separate instances of the streaming media to the plurality of receivers by the at least one aggregation module.

5.   (Currently Amended) A method as recited in claim 1, further comprising selecting a media format for delivering the streaming media to the plurality of receivers.

6.   (Original) A method as recited in claim 1, further comprising delivering the streaming media to each of the plurality of receivers by a multicast broadcast.

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7.   (Currently Amended) A method as recited in claim 1, further comprising converting the single copy of the streaming media into a standardized media format.

8.   (Original) A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the system comprises a cable system having a plurality of used channels for display broadcast programming to the plurality of receivers and a plurality of unused channels.

9.   (Original) A method as recited in claim 8, further comprising identifying when to delivery the single copy of the real-time streaming media to the plurality of receivers by at least one of the plurality of unused channels.

10.   (Currently Amended) A computer program product for implementing, in a system having a plurality of receivers, a method for providing streaming media from a wide area network to the plurality of receivers, the computer program product comprising:

a computer readable medium carrying computer-executable instructions for implementing the method, wherein the computer-executable instructions comprise the act of:

receiving at the aggregation module a request for streaming media accessible via a wide area network from each of a plurality of receivers, each request comprising an identifier representative of the receiver making the request;

using the aggregation module, removing redundant requests ~~creating a single communication connection between the proxy module~~ and requesting a single copy of the streaming media from the wide area network ~~from which a single copy of the streaming media is retrievable~~;

buffering the single copy of the streaming media at the aggregation module; and

using the buffered single copy of the streaming media, delivering ~~separate instances of the~~ streaming media to the plurality of receivers.

11.   (Currently Amended) In a system having a plurality of receivers and at least one aggregation module, a method for providing streaming media from a network to the plurality of receivers, the method comprising:

   (a)   receiving at an aggregation module a request for streaming media accessible via a network from each of a plurality of receivers;

   (b)   using-removing redundant requests and requesting a single copy of the streaming media from the network through a proxy module in communication with the aggregation module; retrieving a copy of the streaming media from the network;

   (c)   delivering-receiving the single copy of the streaming media to-at the aggregation module

   (d)   buffering the copy of the streaming media at the aggregation module; and

   (e)   delivering the-a stream of the buffered copy of the streaming media to a termination system for transmission to each of the plurality of receivers, wherein each of the plurality of receivers receives substantially the same packets of the buffered copy of the streaming media.

12.   (Original) A method as recited in claim 11, wherein the network is selected from the group consisting of a wide area network and a local area network.

13.   (Original) A method as recited in claim 12, wherein the network is the Internet.

14.   (Cancelled)

15.   (Currently Amended) A method as recited in claim 11, further comprising selecting a media format for delivering the streaming media to each of the plurality of receivers.

16.   (Currently Amended) A method as recited in claim 15, wherein—further comprising delivering a plurality of instances of the streaming media to the plurality of receivers.

17.   (Currently Amended) A method as recited in claim 15, further comprising delivering a single instance of the streaming media to each-of the plurality of receivers.

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18.   (Original) A method as recited in claim 15, wherein each of the plurality of receivers includes at least one channel for receiving programming and at least one unused channel in the associated system.

19.   (Original) A method as recited in claim 18, wherein the system is a cable system, a television system, or a satellite system.

20.   (Currently Amended) A method as recited in claim 11, further comprising converting the copy of the streaming media into a standardized media format.

21.   (Original) A method as recited in claim 11, wherein the request comprises at least one addressing mechanism for network resources and at least one identifier representative of a requesting receiver of the plurality of receivers delivering the request to the aggregation module.

22.   (Original) A method as recited in claim 21, further comprising comparing a rating associated with the at least one addressing mechanism for network resources against a stored list of ratings to determine whether content associated with the at least one addressing mechanism for network resources is to be delivered to the requesting receiver.

23.   (Original) A method as recited in claim 22, wherein the at least one addressing mechanism for network resources comprises a uniform resource locator.

24.   (Original) A method as recited in claim 22, wherein comparing occurs upon the proxy module delivering content retrieved from the network to the aggregation module.

25.   (Currently Amended) A computer program product for implementing, in a system having a plurality of receivers and at least one aggregation module, a method for providing streaming media from a wide area network to the plurality of receivers, the computer program product comprising:

a computer readable medium carrying computer-executable instructions for implementing the method, wherein the computer-executable instructions comprise:

at an aggregation module, program code means for receiving a request for streaming media accessible via a proxy module from each of a plurality of receivers;

using the proxy module, program code means for removing redundant requests and requesting retrieving a single copy of the streaming media from a network accessible to the proxy module;

program code means for buffering the single copy of the streaming media at the aggregation module; and

program code means for delivering the single stream copy of the of the buffered streaming media to a termination system for transmission to each of the plurality of receivers, wherein each of the plurality of receivers receives substantially the same packet of the single stream of the buffered streaming media.

26.   (Original) A computer program product as recited in claim 25, wherein the computer-executed instructions further comprise program code means for generating each request from each of the plurality of receivers using an input device.

27.   (Original) A computer program product as recited in claim 25, wherein the computer-executed instructions further comprise program code means for delivering the buffered single copy of the streaming media from the aggregation module.

28.   (Original) A computer program product as recited in claim 27, wherein the computer-executed instructions further comprise program code means for delivering the cached single copy of the streaming media from the aggregation module to the termination system.

29.   (Currently Amended) A computer program product as recited in claim 27, wherein the computer-executed instructions further comprise program code means for selecting a media format for delivering the streaming media to each of the plurality of receivers.

30.   (Currently Amended) A computer program product as recited in claim 27, wherein the computer-executed instructions further comprise program code means for converting the single copy of the streaming media into a standardized media format.

31-37 (Cancelled)

38.   (Currently Amended) A system for displaying media retrieved from a network to a plurality of receivers, the system comprising:

(a)   a source module storing media;

(b)   a plurality of receivers communicating with the source module via a network, each of the plurality of receivers being configured to generate a request and receive the media from the source module at a first connection rate; and

(c)   an access module communicating with the plurality of receivers and the source module, the access module being configured to receive the request for media, aggregate requests by removing redundant requests, and deliver the requested media in a format selected by the access module based upon changes to the first connection rate as media is delivered to two or more of the plurality of receivers.

39.   (Original) A system as recited in claim 38, wherein the source module comprises a server.

40.   (Original) A system as recited in claim 38, wherein the access module comprises at least one of each of a proxy module, a parental control module, and an aggregation module.

41.   (Original) A system as recited in claim 40, wherein the proxy module is configured to retrieve media requested by at least one of the plurality of receivers.

42.   (Currently Amended) A system as recited in claim 41, wherein the aggregation module is configured to convert the retrieved media into a standardized media format.

43.   (Currently Amended) A system as recited in claim 38, wherein the aggregation module is configured to dynamically vary deliver delivery of the requested media in a format based as either independent streams or as a multicast depending on traffic load on the network upon changes to the first connection rate.

44.   (Original) A system as recited in claim 43, wherein the aggregation module delivers multiple instances of the requested media to the plurality of receivers, each of the plurality of receivers receiving a separate instance of the media.

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45.   (Original) A system as recited in claim 44, wherein the aggregation module delivers a single instance of the requested media to the plurality of receivers, each of the plurality of receivers receiving the single instance of the media.

46.   (Original) A system as recited in claim 45, wherein each of the plurality of receivers is capable of displaying a plurality of video channels, at least one of the plurality of video channels being unused.

47.   (Original) A system as recited in claim 46, wherein the aggregation module delivers a single instance of the requested media to the plurality of receivers on the unused video channel.

48.   (New) The method of claim 7, wherein the standardized media format is at least one of Windows Media, MPEG, Real, AVI, QuickTime, and Cinepaq.

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